

Nextel Communications, Inc.
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March 24, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Establishes a New Docket for the Filing of E911
Richardson Certifications by Wireless Carriers – WT Docket No. 03-76.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 20, 2002 the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") released an Order on Reconsideration ("Reconsideration Order")¹ in the *City of Richardson* proceeding, further modifying its rules on the issue of public safety answering point ("PSAP") readiness. Per the Reconsideration Order, PSAPs and wireless carriers may proceed in good faith to deploy a PSAP's request for Phase I or Phase II enhanced 911 ("E911") service upon a mutually agreeable implementation schedule. In the absence of mutual agreement, wireless carriers may engage a formal process certifying that PSAP requests are not valid, thus tolling the six-month deployment period. Prior to filing these formal certifications, the carrier must notify the PSAP and provide it an opportunity to challenge the carrier's conclusion about its readiness. On March 14, 2002 the FCC released a Public Notice establishing Docket Number 03-76 for the filing of *Richardson* certifications and comments.²

Nextel takes its E911 obligations very seriously and has committed significant time and resources to ensure its network can deliver both Phase I and Phase II capabilities. As of March 20, 2003 Nextel had deployed 746 Phase I PSAPs and 112 Phase II PSAPs throughout the country. Despite this success, technological, tariff or other factors have caused some PSAP requests to extend beyond a six-month period.

¹ Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102, *Order on Reconsideration* (rel. Nov. 26, 2002). See also, Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102, *Order* (rel. Oct. 10, 2001).

² Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Establishes a New Docket for the Filing of E911 *Richardson* Certifications by Wireless Carriers, *Public Notice*, WT Docket No. 03-76 (March 14, 2003).

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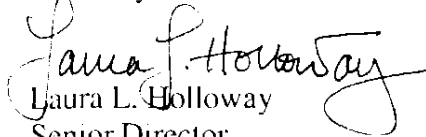




As Nextel explained in its Petition for Reconsideration *of* the Reconsideration Order, PSAP requests often do not fit neatly into a "valid" or "invalid" category.³ As Mr. Hatfield concluded in his Report,⁴ there are numerous complexities involved in any E911 deployment. In many cases, for example, the PSAP may be "ready" and the carrier may be "ready," but due to technical incompatibility issues, the PSAP's service has not been deployed. In other cases, technical, operational or administrative complexities may delay deployment beyond the six-month period even where all involved parties are working in good faith. Thus, rather than heightening the potentially adversarial nature of Phase I and Phase II deployments, Nextel has chosen to continue working cooperatively with each of these PSAPs, maintaining regular contact with them, instead **of** submitting certifications that attempt to portray a very complex process as a simple calculation of "ready or not." Nextel, therefore, has been and continues to be in regular contact with these PSAPs and will deploy these PSAPs as soon as possible pursuant to a mutually agreeable implementation schedule.

If you have questions, please contact me at 703-433-4143

Sincerely,


Laura L. Holloway
Senior Director
Government Affairs

cc: Blaise Scinto
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

³ See Petition for Reconsideration of Nextel Communications, Inc., CC Docket No. 94-102 (Feb. 21, 2003) at pp. 9-11.

⁴ "A Report on Technical and Operational Issues Impacting the Provision of Wireless Enhanced 911 Services." Prepared for the Federal Communications Commission by Dale N. Hatfield ("Report").